(b) how much funds were spend during the first two years (2005-07) of the Bharat Nirman Scheme and in physical terms how many villages have been provided with road connectivity; and

(c) whether Government will ensure adequate availability of funds for rural road connectivity programme for the coming year and improved utilization of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 11,404.66 crore (Rupees eleven thousand four hundred four crore and sixty six lakhs) was spent during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. During this period (2005-07), 13831 habitations were connected through all weather roads under Bharat Nirman.

(c) All efforts are being made to ensure adquate availability of funds for rural road connectivity programme for the coming years and also to ensure improved utilization of such funds. Additional funds have been mobilized from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank as well as from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in order to augment availability of funds for this programme.

Motivation for bio-fuel plants in Maharashtra

989. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of farmers encouraged and motivated for the cultivation of bio-fuel plants like Jatropha in Maharashtra in wastelands and how much money has been released as motivational fund to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): As of now, Central funds have not been released to Maharashtra as motivational fund to encourage and motivate farmers for the cultivation of bio-fuel plants like Jatropha.

Land reforms policy

990. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 25 thousands protesters from over 15 States marched to Delhi, called JANADESH PADYATRA organized by EKTA PARISAD from Gwalior on 2nd October which reached the capital on 28th October, 2007 demanding early announcement of Government's land reforms policy;

(b) if so, the main demands of the protesters indicating reasons for delay in implementation thereof; and

(c) by when Government is expected to come out with clear cut land reforms policy including speedy disposal of land dispute cases, distribution of land to eligible persons and updating/computerization of land records in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Government are aware that a 'Janadesh- 2007 Yatra' organized by the Ekta Parishad reached Delhi on 28.10.2007. The demands of the protesters, *inter-alia,* included setting up of a Land Commission; land reforms-related issues, including lowering of ceiling, registration of tenancy, etc, improvements in the systems of disposal of land-related court cases; better management of the process of updating of land records and single-window system at the tehsil level.